

**FW: "except nuclear power"**

Climate &lt;Climate@montgomerycountymd.gov&gt;

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**To:** [REDACTED]

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**From:** eric leeds [REDACTED]**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 10:48 AM**To:** Climate <Climate@montgomerycountymd.gov>**Subject:** "except nuclear power"**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Montgomery County Climate Change Task Force:

It's a mistake to walk away from nuclear power at the current time. While nuclear power is not ideal, and has its drawbacks (such as the issue of waste storage and need for strong regulatory oversight), if we're going to make significant inroads in the fight against climate change, we need to make use of every tool we have, including nuclear power.

If the concern with nuclear is safety, then the facts do not support eliminating nuclear. The U.S. began using nuclear power to generate electricity commercially in 1963. That's 58 years ago. Since that time, there has been ONE nuclear accident in the U.S. - at Three Mile Island on March 28, 1979, almost 42 years ago. No one was killed in the accident. An examination of the impact of the accident after 20 years was contracted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, led by the University of Pittsburgh Medical School, and found NO increase in adverse health effects (cancers and other somatic effects). Reference <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12611664/>. A 58 year record of operation with no public fatalities is a fact that should not be overlooked in our efforts to combat climate change. Significant nuclear accidents at Chernobyl (1986) and Fukushima (2011) were caused by a design that is outlawed in the U.S. (Chernobyl) and the result of a tsunami causing a wall of water 50 feet high traveling at over 100 MPH (Fukushima). Do we have tsunamis in the U.S.?

If the concern is political, then Montgomery County is swimming against the tide. Republicans have always supported nuclear power. But even the Democrats now see the need to keep nuclear as an option in our fight against climate change. The "Green New Deal" is silent on the use of nuclear power and the Biden Administration is bullish on supporting new nuclear options. At worst, Montgomery county should take Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's lead and remain silent on the issue.

The premature shutdowns of nuclear power plants both here in the U.S. and abroad have directly caused significant increases in carbon emissions. Check the U.S. Energy Information

Administration and the European Union Energy information Agency for data. The Paris Climate Accord meetings in 2015 included a morning devoted to nuclear power.

To close, please reconsider the Montgomery County Climate Plan to ensure we're doing everything we can to fight climate change. Any step we take to reduce the need to burn an atom of carbon is a step towards goodness.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss anything in this email.

Respectfully Yours,

Eric Leeds

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For COVID-19 Information and resources, visit: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COVID19](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COVID19)

